

Walter, Judith

From: McCarthy, Shirley <shirley.mccarthy@yale.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2015 12:51 PM
To: GAETestimony
Subject: CEQ

The **Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)** is critical to the state of CT. It independently reports on the state of Connecticut's environment and pays particular attention to citizen concerns. CEQ is also one of the state's most efficient programs, with only two staff and an annual budget of just \$180,000.

State parks preserve natural landscapes, provide refuge for wildlife, and connect people to wild places. Especially in the year after the creation of the first coastal state park in 50 years, the proposal to cut state parks funding by \$2 million dollars, or nearly 1/6 of their current budget, is shocking.

The **Community Investment Act** helps preserve Connecticut's unique character by funding open space protections, farmland preservation, and historic building renovation. Once open space is gone it is gone; it must be a high priority!

Sincerely, Shirley McCarthy, MD, PhD